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## **“Don’t Just Stand There...PLANT SOMETHING on May 15!”**



“Don’t Just Stand There...PLANT SOMETHING on May 15!” is a new campaign to help everyone enjoy the benefits of planting. The campaign is an initiative of Plant Something MA, a joint program of the Massachusetts Flower Growers Association (MFGA) and the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA). Plant Something MA seeks to get more people to enjoy gardening and support their local, independent nurseries, garden centers, landscapers and growers. The goal is to recruit someone in every city and town in the Commonwealth to organize a public planting on May 15th.

The Plant Something MA website has a special section—[www.plantsomethingma.org/May15](http://www.plantsomethingma.org/May15)—devoted to the campaign. Visitors can view a map of which towns in Massachusetts have already scheduled a public planting on May 15 and will be able to sign up to organize or assist with a planting in their community, at their school, or at their home or workplace. The site also contains tools and resources to help participants plan their events and plantings. In addition, it has an online directory of local, independent nurseries, garden centers, landscapers and growers in Massachusetts. For more information about the campaign, visit [www.plantsomethingma.org](http://www.plantsomethingma.org), or contact Kim LaFleur, Program Coordinator, at [kim@plantsomethingma.org](mailto:kim@plantsomethingma.org).

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## **Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Training for NEW Growers and Market Managers**

Training sessions will be held for the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) or “Coupon Program” at the following times and locations. Trainings are required for all growers and market managers new to the program this season. Coupons cannot be accepted or redeemed prior to training and signing an agreement. If you are unable to attend any of these sessions and would like to begin accepting coupons at your farmers’ market please contact Mary Jordan at [mary.jordan@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.jordan@state.ma.us) to make other arrangements.

Growers and market managers returning to the coupon program do not need to attend a training session. Recertification for returning growers and managers is conducted through the mail or email.

Upcoming trainings for new growers and market managers will be held:

- **Monday, May 13, 2013** - 4:30 pm: MDAR Amherst Office, 3rd floor, 101 University Drive, Amherst, MA
- **Wednesday, May 15, 2013** - 2:30 pm: USDA Office Conference Room, 15 Cranberry Highway, West Wareham, MA
- **Thursday, May 16, 2013** - 4:30 pm: USDA Office, 1st Floor Conference Room, 52 Boyden Rd, Holden, MA, (left side, lower level door)

**RSVP required.**

Please contact:

For Monday & Thursday Training, contact Mary Jordan at MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources at [Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us](mailto:Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us), 617-626-1750.

For Wednesday Training, contact David Webber at MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources at [David.Webber@state.ma.us](mailto:David.Webber@state.ma.us), 617-626-1754.

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Agriculture Photo Contest – June 1 Deadline



Photographers who enjoy capturing images of the Bay State's farms and farm and horticultural products are invited to enter the 2013 Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest. Winning entries will be published in the 2014 Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar. The contest and calendar are sponsored by Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc., Massachusetts Farm to School Project and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

We are seeking photos that represent the traditional (**maple sugaring, cranberries, dairy cows, flowers/plants, fall fruits, farmers and farm families**), as well as the new and dynamic, such as on-farm renewable energy systems and urban agriculture. View last year's winners [here](#).

Winning photographers will be credited in the calendar and will be invited to a ceremony at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in West Springfield this September (tickets to the fair included). Winning photos will be featured on MDAR's [homepage](#) during the corresponding month.

[Click here for Entry Form](#). Deadline June 1, 2013.

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## MFM Director of Development Job Posting

Mass Farmers Markets (MFM) is looking for an organized, detail and systems oriented, and personable individual who possesses the desire to step into a cooperative leadership role to join our team as Development Director. This is a full-time, salaried position with health insurance benefits.

Mass Farmers Markets (MFM) is a statewide nonprofit charitable organization providing support services to all Massachusetts farmers markets and the communities that house them; as well as directly managing three farmers markets in greater Boston. Our small staff works in an intimate and collaborative office. We approach all projects grounded in the present and practical while striving for the future good. All employees are expected to be critical thinkers and use their own life experience and creative problem solving skills in approaching their work.

Please [click here](#) to see the job posting attached to this email and visit our website at [www.massfarmersmarkets.org](http://www.massfarmersmarkets.org) for more information about our organization. If you are interested in joining our team, please email your cover letter (addressed to Jeff Cole, Executive Director) to Martha Sweet, [Martha@massfarmersmarkets.org](mailto:Martha@massfarmersmarkets.org). Any questions can be directed towards myself, [alison@massfarmersmarkets.org](mailto:alison@massfarmersmarkets.org).

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## Workshops / Events

Visit [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/events/](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/events/) for details on workshops below:

### May

- **May 6** - SEMAP's 2013 Twilight Grower Education Series Kick-Off Workshop
- **May 11** - Mushroom Culture Workshop & Forestry Stewardship Program
- **May 11** - Livestock Farm Day (plus Feeder-to-Finish Pigs Workshop)
- **May 14** - Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification
- **May 18** - Hands-on Poultry Processing Training

### June

- **June 8** - MA Cultivated Blueberry Growers Association's Spring Meeting
- **June 11** - Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program
- **June 11** - Meat Marketing Workshop

If you have events/workshops to add to the MDAR calendar, email details to [Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us](mailto:Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us).

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MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at [mass.gov/agr](http://mass.gov/agr), and/or follow at [twitter.com/MDARCommish](https://twitter.com/MDARCommish).